



City of Arts & Innovation

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 31, 2016

Contact:

Phil Pitchford

Communications Officer

951-826-5975

ppitchford@riversideca.gov

MakerSpace at Riverside's Main Library to Celebrate Grand Opening June 7

Creative learning area includes computers, recording studio and 3D printer from local Rotary clubs

RIVERSIDE, Calif. – The new MakerSpace at the Main Library in downtown Riverside will celebrate its grand opening on June 7.

A MakerSpace is a “do-it-yourself” area where library patrons can use computers, innovative software, crafts and other high-tech tools to create everything from jewelry to clothes to art. The MakerSpace is the outcome of great vision, collaboration and community engagement.

The Riverside Public Library Foundation raised more than \$80,000 through its 2015 Annual Campaign, *Make, Create, Innovate* to cover the cost of all MakerSpace technology, furnishings and artwork. The MakerSpace at the Main Library also has a 3D printer that was funded by a \$6,500 donation from five area Rotary Clubs. Such printers have been used to make everything from toys to prosthetic limbs.

“The MakerSpace is the next evolution of libraries as a center for information and knowledge,” Library Director Tonya Kennon said. “Participatory learning is king in the MakerSpace environment, and our library has many of the top tools for learning, inventing and creating. Many thanks to our local Rotarians for their generous donation.”

The celebration is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Tuesday (6/7) at the Main Library, 3581 Mission Inn Avenue. The free event is open to everyone.

“The MakerSpace really adds value to the Main Library,” said City Councilman Mike Gardner, who represents the downtown area. “From a book to a bird house made from a 3D printer, the Library has something for everyone.”

The Rotary clubs that contributed to the 3D printer donation included Arlington, Magnolia, Riverside, Riverside East and Riverside Sunrise. In addition to the 3D printer, the MakerSpace also has a recording studio, collaborative media table, iMac and MacBook Pro computers, Makey Makey kits, Lego Minecraft kits, and more.

“The partnership between the Library, the Riverside Public Library Foundation and the various Rotary clubs is an example of how, in Riverside, we are better together,” Mayor Rusty Bailey said. “Rotary’s willingness to step up and assist our Main Library and its patrons is much appreciated in helping Riverside truly be a City of Arts and Innovation.”